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TWO

LETTERS,

Concerning ſome farther

ADVANTAGES

AND

IMPROVEMENTS

That may ſeem neceſſary to be made on the taking and keeping of

CAPE BRETON.

Humbly offer'd to public Conſideration.

London; Printed in the Year 1740.

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To the Author of the Tradeſman's Journal.

SIR,

WHAT our Trade is conſider'd *abſolutely* in itſelf, and *without Compariſon* to that of others, is one uſeful Point of View in which it ought to be taken.

But what it is *compared* and *relative* to the Trade of our Neighbours, and eſpecially our moſt dangerous Rivals and Enemies, is ſtill more neceſſary to be look'd into at this Juncture, with all the Attention we are Maſters of.

For however valuable in itſelf our Trade may be, yet if our Rival Enemies gain upon and exceed us in this Article, ſo as to make large and haſty Steps to engroſs all, by ſwallowing up the inferior part which had been left us, it behoves us to ſee to this in time, and endeavour to prevent it.

In this reſpect, a Conteſt for Trade, and Power, reſembles a Race, wherein the Winner bears away the Prize. No Matter how great our Strength or Speed be, if they are to ſerve as a Foil to our Rivals, when we become their Conqueſt, or Property; or, at beſt, while we are in danger of becoming ſo, by being ſhamefully thrown behind in Points where we once had the Pre-eminence.

In this Caſe, the greater Advantages we enjoy'd, the more fatal will the Conſequence prove, as contributing only to add more Weight to ſuch an over-ballance of Power, and rendering it more difficult for us to regain our former Superiority.

In order to make the Compariſon propoſed, permit me, 1. To exhibit a ſhort View of the State of the *Britiſh* and *French* Trade to *America*; and from thence, in the ſecond Place, to infer the Expediency, if not the Neceſſity of keeping *Cape Breton* in our Hands, and improving that moſt valuable and ſeaſonable Acquiſition to all poſſible Advantages, whether of extending our Trade, our Dominion or Religion, with all their Influences and Benefits among the (now *French*) *Indians*: eſpecially conſidering that it is the Key of *Canada*, and commands the Conveyance of Supplies to the *Indians*, as alſo the Fiſhery, with the Navigation and Commerce of all the neighbouring Settlements of *North America*. What Influence the ſupplying of the *French Indians* with Proteſtant Miſſionaries and Inſtructors may have upon our Power and Trade among them, will be conſidered in the enſuing Letter. At preſent I confine myſelf to the Compariſon of our Trade with that of the *French*. And this Part of my Work will be the eaſier, as I have no more to do than to make an Extract, and give ſome Hints from a late Pamphlet * on that Subject, written by a Gentleman who ſeems well verſed in it, a Lover of his Country, and zealous for its Proſperity.

In that Piece the Author having obſerved that the *Engliſh* Nation is too apt to have a mean Opinion of the Trade and Navigation of its Rivals, eſpecially the *French*, and was not convinced of its Miſtake, 'till the Incidents of the preſent War, the numerous *French* Fleets, and large Prizes open'd our Eyes; he proceeds to ſhew the Steps by which the *French Commerce* and *Colonies*, from being inferior to ours, have riſen to a dangerous Superiority over us, in leſs than half a Century.

For this Purpoſe 'a Council of Commerce was eſta-'bliſhed in the Year 1700, conſiſting of ſome of the prin-'cipal Officers of State, and twelve Deputies of the prin-'cipal

* *See the preſent State of the* Britiſh *and* French *Trade to* Africa *and* America *conſidered and compared; with ſome Propoſitions*, &c. London, 1745.

' cipal Merchants, or Perſons who have been a long time ' engaged in Trade.' Two of theſe were of *Paris*, and each of the other ten of *Rouen*, *Bourdeaux*, *Lyons*, *Marſeilles*, *Rochelle*, *Nantes*, *St. Malo*, *Liſle*, *Bayonne*, and *Dunkirk*.

Since this Eſtabliſhment, and in Conſequence of the Memorials preſented by them to the Royal Council, containing Propoſitions for Regulations and Remedies in Trade, being thoroughly executed, ' the Trade of *France* ' has been extended to the *Levant*, the *North*, *Africa*, ' *North America*, the *South Seas*, and to the *Eaſt* and *Weſt* ' *Indies*, even ſo far as to make more than double the Va- ' lue in Sugar, Indigo, Ginger and Cotton, in their *Weſt* ' *India* Iſlands than what is now made by the *Engliſh*, ' who before that Time exceeded the *French* in this Branch of Trade abundantly.'

In the Article of Sugar they are increaſed from 30,000 to 120,000 Hogſheads *Engliſh* in a Year, [*i. e.* as 3 to 12 or 1 to 4:] Two Thirds of which are ſhipp'd to *Holland*, *Hamburgh*, *Spain*, and other foreign Markets.

In the ſame Time the *Engliſh* have encreaſed from about 45,000 to no more than 70,000 Hogſheads, *i.e.* as 9 to 14, not near double, ' of which they now ſend but ' little to foreign Markets, altho' they had formerly the ' beſt Share of that Trade, and *even ſupplied* France *with* ' *Sugars*.' And moreover the *French* have already engroſſed the Indigo-Trade from the *Engliſh*, and have greatly encreaſed in their Fiſheries, and Beaver and other Fur-Trade in *North America*, ſince their Settlement of *Cape Breton*, which they have fortified at a vaſt Expence;— and it is from this laſt mentioned Trade, and their Fiſheries, that they find a Vent for moſt of their Molaſſes and Rum, that the *Engliſh* do not take off their Hands.

To ſhew their Superiority in the Fur-Trade, ' it is ' computed they import into *France* from *Canada* only ' to the Value of 135,000 l. Sterling *per Annum* in Bea- ' ver and other Furs, including Dear-ſkins; and the *En-* ' *gliſh* from all our Northern Colonies not above 90,000 *l.* ' Sterling, [*i.e.* the *French* Trade is to the *Engliſh* as 3 to

' a in this Article;] and this by manufacturing in *France*, ' which is taken Care to be done under the *severeſt Pe-* ' *nalties*, is increaſed, in ſome Caſes, *ten fold* in Value; ' and ſupplies moſt Parts of *Europe* and *Spaniſh America* ' with Hats.'

' Since the Commencement of the preſent War there ' was a Ship taken, bound from *France* to the *Spaniſh* ' *Weſt-Indies*, in which was a Quantity of white Beaver and ' other Hats, which were ſold in *London*, and were ſo ' much ſuperior in Quality to any Thing of the like Sort, ' that our Manufacturers were ſurprized at it.——

Theſe Advantages gain'd by the *French*, are conſpicuous from the immenſe Sums which ' They draw *annually* ' from other Countries, *and which enable them to maintain* ' *powerful Armies, and afford ſuch plentiful Subſidies and* ' *Penſions to ſeveral Powers and People in* Europe: *From* ' *hence they build their Ships of War, and maintain Seamen* ' *to ſupply them.*

' It is computed that they draw from two to three Mil- ' lions of Pounds Sterling *per annum* from foreign Coun- ' tries, in return only for Sugar, Indigo, Coffee, Ginger, ' Beaver manufactured into Hats, Salt-Fiſh and other ' *American* Products, and near one Million more from ' *Great Britain* and *Ireland* only, in *Wool* and *Caſh*, in ' return for Cambricks, Tea, Brandy and Wine, and ' thereby *fight us in Trade, as well as at War, with our* ' *own Weapons.* But it is to be hoped that the Meaſures ' lately taken by the *Britiſh* Legiſlature to prevent the Im- ' portation of foreign Cambricks and Tea, and the taking ' and *keeping* of *Cape-Breton* will be attended with conſi- ' derable national Advantages.

' This laſt Article will greatly interrupt their Trade to ' *Canada*, as well as their Fiſheries in *North America*; and ' conſequently the Vent of their Rum, Sugar, and Mo- ' laſſes; and it diveſts them of a moſt uſeful Middle Port, ' or Harbour, between both the *Indies* and *Old France*; ' and, to ſpeak it in other Words, it affords us a moſt ' commodious Middle Port, or Harbour, between *Great* ' *Britain* and *Ireland*, and the *Eaſt-Indies*, and our Colo- ' nies.

nies in *America*; where Supplies may be found, and where safe Convoys may be met with on all Occasions.'

The same Writer, after touching on other Methods by which the *French* Commerce and Colonies have been cherish'd and encouraged, such as, by laying less Imposts and Duties on the Products of the *French* Islands than are laid on those of the *English*; and even by granting Bounties on them; and also by the King's granting Lands *Gratis*, to industrious Poor; by lending them Money in Case of Misfortunes; by moderating Fees and Port-Charges; by long Forbearance of Creditors with Planters in Debt; by maintaining Forts and Garrisons, and Marines in private Ships; by good Regulations of the Marine, *&c.* I say, after these Matters, he gives us fair Warning lest another *Cape-Breton*, which may prove more dangerous to our Sugar Islands than the former has been to our Fishery, shou'd be raised in *Santa Lucia*. ibid. p. 14, 15.

'The *French* have lately sent a Governor with Men and Cannon to *Santa Lucia*, with a View of seizing and settling that Island, where there is as good a Harbour as that in the Island of *Cape Breton*, in sight of *Martinico*, and another not much inferior to it; and they are determined to hold it at all Events, well knowing that the Power that holds that Island will keep their Enemies in Awe in that Part of the World, and distress them in Time of War, if not totally overthrow them. For this Reason, as the Marquess *de Champaignie*, General of the *French* Windward Islands declared long since to the Author, it has always been thought good Policy in both Crowns, to let this important Island remain Neutral; and it is to be hoped, that timely Care will be taken that it may be so, or that it may be ours, lest the *French* should fortify this Harbour in like Manner as they did that in the said Island of *Cape-Breton*.'

And p. 20. He adds —— 'We find by Experince that the same Causes which straiten the *British* Commerce will naturally enlarge the *French*; and it must be allowed that the Naval Force of either Nation, will at one Time or other, thrive or languish in the same Degree as their Commerce

'Commerce gathers or loſes Strength; and we are now 'convinced that the Seas are ſpread with *French* Ships to 'and from all Parts of the World, and that their Power 'as well by Sea as by Land, is *growing more and more with their Colonies and Commerce*, and all *Europe* are jea-'lous of their ambitious Views: And ſhou'd they continue 'this Courſe of improving their Trade and Colonies, 'without our taking ſuitable Meaſures to encourage ours, 'and *that without Delay*, they muſt in the End become 'ſuperior to us by Sea. ſhou'd this ever be the Caſe, 'they will doubtleſs engroſs the *African* and *American* 'Trade, and in Conſequence become Maſters of the moſt 'valuable Part of the Territories that border on the Weſt-'ern Ocean; Territories that abound in People and com-'modious Sea-ports.—Then—What will be the Fate of '*Great Britain*! How will it ſtand with *Old England*!—I 'ſay, *without Delay*, ſince no body can be ignorant how 'many Opportunities may be loſt by a ſhort Delay, which '*no Degree of Diligence can afterwards regain*.'

And now let any Man reflect whether the Conſequence of this Compariſon be not juſt and neceſſary, that we ſhould *keep Cape-Breton*.

Shall we retain and employ an Opportunity which the divine Providence has manifeſtly once more put into our Hands, of bringing our *Commerce* and *Colonies* nearer to a Ballance, or even of recovering that Superiority in both, which we once poſſeſs'd, over our Rivals? Or ſhall we again give it up to them to be turned againſt us, to our Deſtruction in both? The Indignation of every *Engliſhman*, and of every Well-wiſher to *England* will riſe at the thought: eſpecially when it is conſidered how much the keeping of *Cape-Breton* may be farther improved to the Promoting of our Safety, the ſtrengthening of our Intereſt, and laying the Foundation of an inviolable Amity and good Under-ſtanding with the *Indians* (as our Enemies the *French* pru-dently foreſaw, and ſenſibly experienced) by Methods which *to the Reproach of our Lukewarmneſs in the beſt Cauſe*, have hitherto been too little thought of, and leſs cultivated, by us, and our Colonies in the Plantations.

I remain, Sir, Your Humble Servant,

PHILOLAOS.

SIR,

AGREEABLE to what was promiſed in my laſt, I ſend you my preſent Thoughts how *Cape Breton* may be farther improved, in a Way, wherein the Honour, the Intereſt, the Safety, and therefore the Duty of the Nation ſeem concerned. And this is choſen to be done in the humble Form of *Queries*; both, becauſe it befits the Subject, and that the Hints therein given may be either rejected, or admitted and encouraged as the Matter may deſerve.

Should it be here asked what Connection the propagation of our Religion has with the extending of our Commerce and Power, and the maintaining our Safety; I anſwer, this will in ſome Degree appear from rhe *Queries* themſelves: And farther let it be conſidered, that honeſt Induſtry is the Daughter of true Religion and the Mother of fair Trade, and well gotten Wealth; and ſuch Objects only are worthy of a national Care and Regard.

I may add, that Unity in Religion, Soundneſs of Faith and Integrity in holding and obſerving it when given in any Matter, are the ſtrongeſt Bonds and Cements of Society, and Supports of Credit, among Members of the ſame Community; or, of Alliance and Friendſhip among Members of different Communities, as the *Engliſh* and *Indians* are at preſent.

And, on the other hand, let it be remember'd, that we can ſcarce ever expect the Hearts of the *Indians* to be towards us, or any Faith to be kept by them with their *American* Neighbours of our Nation, whenever it may be in their Power or Intereſt to break it, while they are under the Influence of *Romiſh* Principles and Miſſionaries, as too many of the *Indians* bordering on our Settlements are, and as our Colonies have felt to their Coſt.

I am aware of ſeveral Objections that may be raiſed from the Difficulties and other Circumſtances attending a Deſign of this Nature.

But let us once think right, reſolve well, and ſet about our good Purpoſes heartily, and I am not without Hope, that all Objections and Difficulties will vaniſh before us.

Let

Let us in this Reſpect ſubmit to be taught Wiſdom and Policy by our Enemies, let us look on the Progreſs they have made in gaining over both *Indians* and *Negroes* to their Way, and let us bluſh, not only bluſh but grieve to ſee the beſt Cauſe outdone in Zeal by the worſt.

Fas eſt & ab Hoſte doceri.

I am, Sir, Your humble Servant.

PHILOLAOS.

The following Queries *are humbly propoſed and ſubmitted to the Publick.*

1. WHether the late happy Succeſs at *Cape Breton* ſhould not be conſidered by the *Engliſh* Nation I mean the whole Body of the *Britiſh* Empire both in *Europe* and *America*, as a Door opened not only to enlarge their Trade and Power, but alſo to diſſeminate our moſt pure and excellent Religion among the *Indians* (eſpecially thoſe in the *French* Intereſt) and to ſupply the Outſettlers of our own Nation in the adjacent Parts with the Ordinances of the Goſpel, in Order to revive it among themſelves, and ſpread it among their Neighbours.

2. Whether in particular thoſe *Indian* Tribes and Nations, which are deprived of a Supply of Popiſh Miſſionaries, by the taking of *Cape-Breton*, ſhould not now be ſupplied with Proteſtant Miſſionaries in their Place; chiefly indeed, for Reaſons, and upon Principles truly Religious; but partly alſo, to win them over and firmly attach them to the Engliſh Intereſt; an Effect which the Engliſh Americans know to be highly deſirable for their Safety and Advantage, and conſequently for that of their Mother Country; by theſe Means, true Religion and Virtue may gradually ſucceed in the Place of Superſtition and Idolatry; and Humanity, Faith and good Morals, inſtead of Cruelty, Ignorance and Jeſuitical Principles, deſtructive of all the former.

It is well known that notwithſtanding the great Aſſiſtances and Encouragements given by the Societies at Home, both the *Indians* and *Negroes* are generally neglected (except in a very few Caſes) in our Provinces and Plantations, in point of Religious Inſtruction. No effectual Method has yet been found and practiſed to train them up to Indnſtry

duſtry and true Religion: While, on the other Hand, the *French* and *Spaniards* have made them *Proſelytes* to their Way, and thereby rendered them more faithful and firm to themſelves, and more averſe and dangerous to us. We have treated them as if they had no Souls to be ſaved, no Paſſions to be governed, no Affections to be gained or loſt by religious Obligations; while our Enemies have improv'd all theſe Conſiderations to their own Advantage, and our Prejudice. Theſe Matters are known to be true by a Courſe of ſome Experience among them.

3. Whether the Foundation of a School for inſtructing Youth (as a Nurſery both for Sea and Land) in the Elements of Learning (not only Grammatical but Mathematical for thoſe who are proper Subjects of ſuch Inſtruction) and alſo in the Principles of Religion will not be a neceſſary Beginning for the aforeſaid good Purpoſes, at *Cape Breton*, eſpecially in Hope that the Benefit and Example may in Time be extended to other Places.

4. Whether the Sound and plain Inſtructions delivered in the excellent Catechiſm and Liturgy of the Church of *England*, and the Method of our daily Prayers and Reading the Holy Scriptures be not the pureſt and ſureſt Way of propagating the Goſpel, free from any Mixture or Corruption, to which an extemporary Service, without Regard to a ſound Form of Words, is known to be liable. And this Method, if approved, will be much aſſiſted by the many good, pious and practical Tracts diſtributed by *the Societies for propagating the Goſpel*, and *for promoting Chriſtian Knowledge*.

5. Whether a School or Seminary founded on theſe Principles and for ſuch Purpoſes will not be truly uſeful and hopeful?

6. Whether a convenient Number of the Scholars may not be deſigned and allotted to go and trade among the *Indians* both by Land and Water, and at the ſame Time to take proper Opportunities to ſettle *Store Houſes* and *Schools* among them under due Regulations, the former of which will draw them to the latter, and ſo lay a Foundation for inſtructing them, and gaining their Affections.

It

It is humbly propoſed and ſubmitted to his Excellency the Governor of *Cape Breton* to begin a Foundation, and ſet on Foot a Subſcription among the worthy Officers and others for the aforeſaid Purpoſes; which by giving them an Opportunity of dedicating a Part of thoſe Spoils which the *only Giver of all Victory* hath delivered into their Hands, to his Honour, and the Service of Religion, will be a Teſtimony of their Gratitude, and bring down the Bleſſings of Heaven on them, and their Enterprizes.

It is alſo ſubmitted to be conſidered whether in caſe there be ſome publick Building already raiſed by the *French* at *Louiſbourg*, originally deſigned for ſome ſuch Purpoſe, or at leaſt for ſome Religious Uſe; it may not moſt properly be turned to the Uſes propoſed in our Way: And therefore whether it be not in the Governor's Power to begin and encourage ſuch a Foundation, to his immortal Honour and Reward?

It is alſo ſubmitted to Conſideration, whether the Method and Rules of the *Charter Schools* in *Ireland*, (the great Uſe and Succeſs of which has been found by Experience and are known to their liberal Benefactor * the Governor of *Cape Breton*) will not afford a proper Scheme for Schools in *America*, in ſeveral Caſes, as tending to train up the Children of the lower Claſs of People, both free-born, Slaves and *Indians*, at once in the profitable Labours of this Life, and in the neceſſary Knowledge in Order to a better. And upon Reflection it will be found, that the ſame Reaſons are equally prevalent and concluſive in both Caſes, *viz.* that of the *Indians* and *Negroes* abroad, as of the Popiſh Natives in *Ireland*.

P. S. It is obvious to ſee, that however the Lot of War, or the Neceſſity of our Affairs may diſpoſe of *Cape Breton*, the propoſed Method of Inſtruction may be practiſed in all our other *American* Plantations; and the ſooner the better; ſince by the laſt Accounts from thence, of the renew'd Cruelties of the *Indians*, under *French* Influence, againſt our People and Settlements, the Expediency and Benefits of humanizeing and converting them to our Religion appear ſtronger.

* Admiral *Warren*.

FINIS.